

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9, 11-15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 30, and 35-37 are pending in the application, with Claims 9, 20, 26, and 35-37 being independent.

By this amendment, Claims 9, 20, 26, and 30 have been amended. Claims 35-37 have been added herein. Support for the amendments may be found in the application, as filed. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to claim 30 for being dependent upon a canceled claim. In response, Claim 30 has been amended to depend from a pending claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 9, 11-15, 20, 21, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,474,475 (Kohtani et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,488 (Stone et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,616,359 (Nakagiri et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 9, 20, and 26 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 9 relate to an information processing apparatus for controlling a printing operation in a printer which can perform a duplex printing, comprising first input means for inputting an arbitrary first output paper size, second input means for inputting a second output paper size including the first output paper size, arrangement layout means, and designating means.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite data input means for inputting drawing data for a plurality of pages to be printed. Claim 9 has also been amended to recite that the arrangement layout means is for arranging the drawing data for the plurality of pages, input by the data input means, according to the first output paper sizes with respect to a paper of the second output paper size on the basis of the first output paper size and the second output paper size. Claim 9 has been further amended to recite that the designating means is for designating whether the arrangement layout means adds a frame line to only a reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size. Finally, Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the arrangement layout means adds the frame line to only the reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size without adding a frame line to a front side of the paper of the second output paper size in a case where the designating means designates that the arrangement layout means adds the frame line to only the reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size.

In contrast, the patents to Kohtani et al., Stone et al., and Nakagiri et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest designating means for designating whether arrangement layout means adds a frame line to only a reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size, or that the arrangement layout means adds the frame line to only the reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size without adding a frame line to a front side of the paper of the second output paper size in a case where the designating means designates that the arrangement layout means adds the frame line to only the reverse side of the paper of the second output paper size, as recited by amended Claim 9. Rather, the patent to Kohtani et al. is understood to merely disclose printing of plural images on a single recording sheet, the Stone et al. patent is merely understood to show a printer capable of performing Nup printing and duplex printing, and the Nakagiri et al.

patent is understood to merely show a job set up file including information on the designation of page-frame rendering, format information including page-frame print information, and layout setup items including page-frame information.

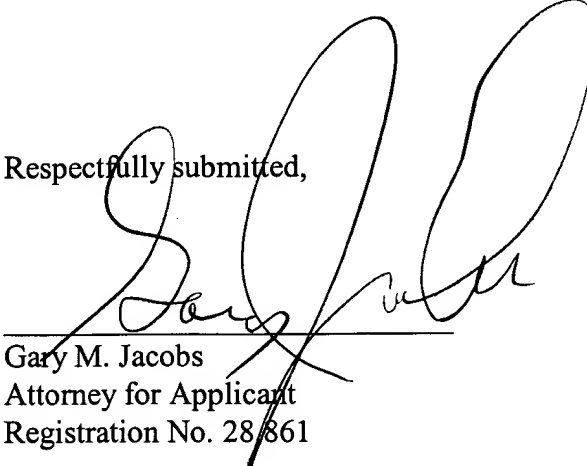
To establish a prima facie case of obviousness against Claim 9, MPEP § 2142 requires the cited art to disclose or suggest all the claimed features. Since the patents to Kohtani et al., Stone et al., and Nakagiri et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest the designating means or the arrangement layout means recited by amended Claim 9, the Office is not understood to have yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 9. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 9 be withdrawn. And since independent Claims 20 and 26 have been amended in a similar manner and are corresponding method and program claims, they are allowable for corresponding reasons. In addition, new independent Claims 35-37 recite similar features and are also allowable for similar reasons.

The remaining claims depend from one of the allowable independent claims. These dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of that dependency, and for reciting other patentable features of Applicant's invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims are requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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